

## Climate Action Goes Local

From Bureau of International Information Programs and eJournalUSA

Note from the Editor: For this month's feature article on environment, instead of choosing just one article, I decided to provide you links to several articles as I found them quite educational and inspiring and hope you will too, particularly as they show community action to global problems. There are even two articles which are India-focused as you will see below. I also wanted to share this link with you that shows climate change in images: [A Changing Planet](#)

As a global phenomenon, climate change is an issue that we usually look to the international community to address. Local communities, however, are increasingly taking the lead in developing innovative, grass-roots approaches to mitigating and combating the causes and effects of global warming. According to a study by the United Nations Development Programme, most investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change *must* take place at the local level. In the United States, local governments and private citizens have been collaborating to curb those emissions, without waiting for solutions at the national or international level.

This issue of *eJournal USA* examines what it means to think globally about climate change — and to act locally. "Climate Action Goes Local" shows how communities and nongovernmental groups worldwide are initiating programs that counter climate change, and why leadership from local officials and buy-in from local populations and businesses are necessary for such programs to be effective. An excerpt from *Local Action: The New Paradigm in Climate Change Policy* by Tommy Linstroth and Ryan Bell outlines advantages local governments have over higher-level governments and institutions in developing, monitoring and adapting climate change programs to serve their constituencies.

This volume also recounts how local governments,

businesses and communities in Central America, East Asia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the United States are partnering to leverage their resources, thereby multiplying the impact of their programs.

The success of the local efforts described herein suggests that local governments and communities are well-positioned to achieve tangible environmental benefits without sacrificing economic growth and development.

### [Seattle's Climate Strategy Pays Off](#)

*Jonathan Hiskes, Pacific Northwest Correspondent, Sustainable Industries Magazine*  
Pioneering climate policies required convincing voters and enlisting businesses.

### [California: Changing the Game on Climate](#)

*Terry Tamminen, President, Seventh Generation Advisors*

A 2006 California law has inspired other U.S. states to take action.

### [Cisco: California's Climate Law Is Good for Business](#)

*Laura Ipsen, Vice President and General Manager, Cisco Systems Connected Energy*  
One California-based company says the state's 2006 climate law has generated clean-energy investment and jobs.

### [Grass-Roots Climate Activism Soars in India](#)

*Karuna Singh, Country Director, Earth Day India*  
Mobilizing people against global warming in a region where most struggle to survive.

### [Local Citizens Must Join Climate Debate](#)

One young Indian activist argues for a comprehensive approach to development, energy and climate issues.

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#### The American Center

C-49, G Block, B. K. C., Bandra East Mumbai – 400051 Tel: 022-2672-4024  
E-mail: [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov); Website: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

#### H O L I D A Y S

No HOLIDAYS



*Mumbai Mondays*

# Small Actions Big Results

Collective Action and Megacity Environments

By Justine Veit

Consular Officer,  
U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai

In honor of World Environment Day, Foreign Service Officer Justine Veit will lead a Mumbai Mondays on "Small Actions, Big Results: Collective Action and Megacity Environments." This special Mumbai Mondays interactive discussion will be held at the Bombay Natural History Society. Come hear about the small projects with big impact approaches around the world where society contributes to environmental protection.

Justine Veit has been a member of the Foreign Service since 2010. Before starting her posting in Mumbai, she spent two years in Mexico City in the American Citizen Services section. While working in Mexico, Justine organized the Green Bazaar for two consecutive years, allowing for Embassy staff to learn and buy from eco-friendly vendors. Justine is a graduate of Saint Louis University where she majored in Art History and Political Science.

**June 17<sup>2013</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

Free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Venue:**

**Bombay Natural History Society**

Hornbill House, Opp. Lion Gate, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai-400 001

**RSVP: Skyla Chothia, ChothiaSR@state.gov, Tel: 022-2672 4893**



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### Banking on Wind

A South African bank invests in renewables to become energy-lean and climate-friendly.

### Sweet Resolution Saves Water

The Coca-Cola Company whets the appetite for water conservation in Central America.

### Villagers Protect Forests, Watersheds

A local pilot project in Vietnam is expanded nationwide.

### Green Building Program Takes Off in West Bank

Where energy supply is limited, energy savings are valued.

### Students Battle for Innovative Energy Solutions

An international competition in the Netherlands spawns ideas to help the environment and industry.

### Local Governments Take the Lead on Climate

*Tommy Linstroth, Head of Sustainable Initiatives, Melaver Inc.; Ryan Bell, Sustainability Project Manager, County of Alameda, California*

Local governments have the flexibility to devise and implement successful climate programs.

### Glossary

### Additional Resources

The American Library, Mumbai is partnering to put on Asia's first non-fiction festival in late June. A genre that is a mirror for viewing the world around us, dealing with facts about people, places, issues and events, will have one of the world's few non-fiction events called the **India Non Fiction Festival**. Centered on the theme, **Be Bold Stay Real**, the festival will deal primarily with non-fiction writing and will see experts across sectors come together to disseminate their wisdom and insights. 70+ Speakers, Exciting Contests, Open Fest, Free Entry. Venue: **Nehru Centre** at Worli from the **21 to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013**.

Facebook: /indianonfictionfestival.com  
Twitter: @INonFictionFest #INFF  
[www.indianonfictionfestival.com](http://www.indianonfictionfestival.com)

## WORD FROM THE CENTER

It's hard to believe that three years have passed so quickly. This is my last "Word from the Center" and writing it is bittersweet. The American Center and American Library have undergone profound changes during the past few years, and it was my privilege to help steward them through the transitions. Now as my time in Mumbai ends, I can see the rewards of our hard work in the beautiful library, hundreds of new books on the shelves, fantastic programs, and lots of new friends. And I can't forget the this week's introduction of WiFi in the American Library!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the past three years unforgettable! In August, I move on to my next assignment in Bucharest, Romania, and I leave confident that you will welcome the new team with open arms, just as you did me.

I will always treasure my time in Mumbai and with you. Thanks for all memories!

Regards,



Angela Gemza  
Cultural Affairs Officer

**8 June**  
**2013**  
**at 11:00 am**



**Saturday Kids' Movie Screening**  
**Walt Disney**  
**BABES**  
**IN**  
**TOYLAND**  
106 min, 1961  
U.S. Consulate General,





# Saturday Film Screenings

Theme of the month-Environment



**JUNE 15**

**JUNE 29**

## The Day the Earth Stood Still

(2008, 104 mins.)



Dr. Helen Benson is summoned to a military facility with several other scientists when an alien spacecraft of sorts arrives in New York City. Aboard is a human-like alien and a giant robot of immense size and power. The alien identifies himself as Klaatu and says he has come to save the Earth. The US military and political authorities see him as a threat however and decide to use so-called intensive interrogation techniques on him but Dr. Benson decides to facilitate his escape. When she learns exactly what he means when he says he is there to save the Earth, she tries to convince him to change his intentions.

## Instinct

(1999, 126 mins.)



Nearly two years after having gone amiss in Africa, renowned anthropologist Dr. Ethan Powell is caught committing a crime and then imprisoned in a mental institution, where aspiring psychiatrist Dr. Theo Calder takes over his important case. Yet Theo's case is not just about why Dr. Powell killed two poachers, but also about how Powell became the being he is in the first place. With Ethan's silence broken, Theo is introduced into a world beyond common human comprehension: The true nature of being. He learns that mankind's control of everything is a mere illusion and that the true values of existence can't be found so easily.

**Screening will start at 2:00 pm**



U.S. Consulate General,  
C-49, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra-East, Mumbai-51

**Free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-served basis.**

"Mobile phones and laptops are permitted for this event, but Bluetooth technology must be disabled. Cameras, memory storage devices, and other electronic equipment are not allowed. Photography and video recording in and around the Consulate compound is strictly prohibited."



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## Alumni Highlights

### Alumni Grant for celebrating Global Youth Service Day



Mr. PL Mathew, an IVLP alum from Pune was given a grant by the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, to conduct activities related to climate change during the Global Youth Service Day, April 26-27. "The River

Calling: Saving the Mula-Mutha" began with an awareness rally followed by a musical concert on April 26; and a photography exhibition on April 27. 300 youth from Pune participated in the rally and musical event. There was a good response from media along with activist organizations working on river issues.

Do you have ideas to better build U.S.-India relations? If yes, get in touch with your Alumni Coordinator, Behrooz KY Avari at [avaribk@state.gov](mailto:avaribk@state.gov). We can discuss your idea, and if feasible, possibly grant a small amount for the activity.

### Save the date - Alumni Reception

Alumni Reception for all USG funded exchange participants on June 27, 2013 at 6:30pm at the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai. Restricted entry to alumni who have RSVPed. Kindly carry a photo-ID.

RSVP [avaribk@state.gov](mailto:avaribk@state.gov) by June 18.

The Indian EXPRESS  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### Alumni in the news

SHUBHANGI KUMBHAR



## WEAVES FROM THE VALLEY

Born and brought up in Kashmir, Feroz Hussain, an MBA, chose to combine his entrepreneur skills over a job in multinational company to uplift the lives of weavers of the valley

26-year old CCIP alumnus, Feroz Hussain, was featured in the Indian Express (Pune Edition) on May 13 for his role in empowering Kashmiri widows. Born and brought up in Kashmir, Hussain had seen the violence and anguish faced by the people in the region and wanted to do something to help. Post his MBA, he set up Incredible Art in Pune. His venture helps by providing raw materials to widows in Kashmir; and their handiwork - carpets and shawls are then sold by Incredible Art.

### Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) Web chat

The third annual Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) launched on April 24. PAS Mumbai hosted a Q&A webchat by Dr. Shubhalaxmi V. who won the AEIF 2012. She provided tips and answered questions on preparing a competitive AEIF proposal.





# Are you going to study in the US this Fall?

## Attend a USIEF Pre-Departure Orientation

at World Trade Center, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400005

Friday, July 12th 2013, 9am-5pm

Saturday, July 20th, 2013 9am-5pm

*(register for either of the two PDOs)*

**At the interactive USIEF pre-departure orientation, students who have been admitted to U.S. universities will learn:**

- Make the most of the last month in India
  - Medical Insurance
  - How to make travel arrangements
- Visa / Traveling to the US / Port of entry
- US geography / climate / time-zones
- The first week on campus
  - How to use the International Student Office
- Cultural Differences in the US and How to Adapt to them
- Understanding academic life in the US
- Practical & useful information for living in the US Housing, managing your finances
- Safety and Security Measures Required in the US
- Quick Guides that You May Need in the US

**At this event, you can also:**

- Meet, interact and share conversations with other students going to the US
- Engage in discussions and special sessions on academic and social life in the US
- Participate in a cultural quiz and win gifts
- Receive information booklets, handouts and other materials
- Share a delicious lunch with other students in a stimulating and learning environment

**Registration:** Between May 1 and July 6, 2013. (9:30 am to 4:00 pm Mon to Sat) Documents required for registration: Copy of passport and I-20



**For more information and registration, contact:**

USIEF • 2nd Floor Maker Bhavan 1 Churchgate(East) Mumbai 400020

Tel: 022-2262 4603

Email: [usiefmumbai@usief.org.in](mailto:usiefmumbai@usief.org.in)

[www.Facebook.com/EducationUSAMumbai](http://www.Facebook.com/EducationUSAMumbai)



## Alumni Highlights

### Are you an Alum of a USG sponsored program?

If so, register on the State Alumni website [www.alumni.state.gov](http://www.alumni.state.gov).

Once signed in, you can access content from State Alumni including:

1. Alumni Updates
2. Events
3. Grants database

If you are already registered, I would encourage you to log in, and post your own stories and events to these pages to share your accomplishments with other alumni, and network with them.

You may also share your stories with our Alumni Coordinator at [AvariBK@state.gov](mailto:AvariBK@state.gov) / [MumbaiPublicAffairs@state.gov](mailto:MumbaiPublicAffairs@state.gov)

If you are an alumnus of a United States exchange program and have received special recognition, please send a write-up with 2-3 photos to [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov). You could be featured in future e-bulletins!

# facebook

join our  
group

### Alumni Group on Facebook

"The International Exchange Alumni - Western India" group has been created on Facebook. The group is for U.S. Government funded program alumni living in Western India. (The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai covers the following states in Western India: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Goa)

You may request to join the group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/170264503133421/>



THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, MUMBAI  
INVITES YOU TO  
CELEBRATE

**AMERICAN  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY**

**SATURDAY  
JULY 13**  
10:30AM to 9PM

Phoenix Market City Mall,  
Kurla

Atrium 4

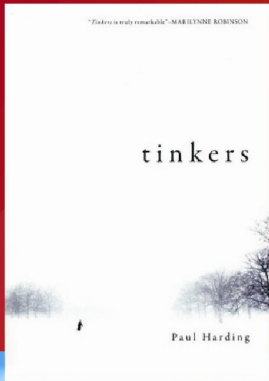
**FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**





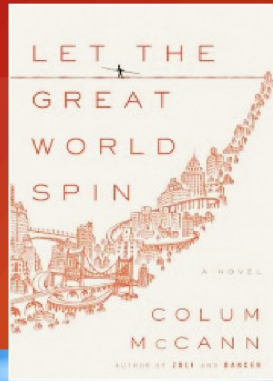
# NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Read Newly Arrived Award Winning Novels @the American Library



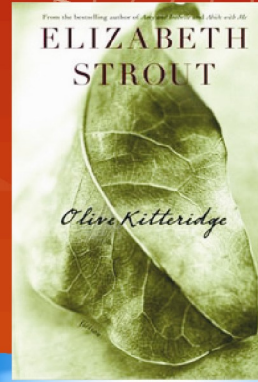
## **Tinkers** by Paul Harding. (2010 Pulitzer Prize Winner)

This story unfurls the history and final thoughts of a dying grandfather George Washington Crosby. He revisits his turbulent childhood as the oldest son of an epileptic smalltime traveling salesman. As time collapses into memory, he travels deep into his past where he is reunited with his father and relives the wonder and pain of his impoverished New England youth.



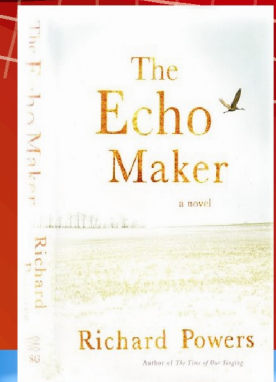
## **Let the Great World Spin** by Colum McCann. Random House, 2009. (2009 National Book Award Winner)

In the dawning light of a late – summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the twin towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker in running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. Let the Great World Spin captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence.



## **Olive Kitteridge** by Elizabeth Strout. Random House, 2008. (The 2009 Pulitzer Prize Winner)

New York Times best-selling author Strout, in 13 linked stories Olive Kitteridge offers profound insights into the human condition – its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires.



## **The Echo Maker** by Richard Powers. Picador, 2006. (2006 National Book Award Winner)

On a winter night on a remote Nebraska Road, twenty seven year old mark Schluter has a near fatal car accident. His older sister, Karin, returns reluctantly to their hometown to nurse Mark back from a traumatic head injury. But when Mark emerges from a coma, he believes that this woman – who looks, acts, and sounds like his sister – is really an imposter.